

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NAIROB 09450 270434Z
ACTION SS-25

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INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
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AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY SANA

S E C R E T NAIROBI 9450

EXDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PBOR, SO, ET, KE
SUBJ: FOREIGN MINISTER ON HORN OF AFRICA ISSUES

REF: STATE 170047

1. SUMMARY: FOREIGN MINISTER WAIYAKI EXPRESSED UNDERSTANDING FOR OBJECTIVES OF U.S. DECISION ON ARMS FOR SOMALIA AND ACKNOWLEDGED THAT KENYA FACED DILEMMA IN ITS OWN RELATIONS WITH SOMALIA AND ETHIOPIA. HE CONFIRMED THAT KENYA INTENDS TO HOLD JOINT COMMISSION MEETINGS WITH ETHIOPIA IN AUGUST AND INDICATED THAT ETHIOPIA IS INTERESTED IN JET FUEL FROM KENYA. END SUMMARY.

2. DURING MY INITIAL CALL ON WAIYAKI I DREW ON REFTTEL TO REITERATE POINTS PREVIOUSLY CONVEYED TO PERMSEC OF FOREIGN MINISTRY BY DCM. I STRESSED OUR AWARENESS OF KENYA'S

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CONCERNS ABOUT SOMALI IRREDENTIST CLAIMS AND OUR DETERMINATION THAT ANY ARMS SUPPLIED TO SOMALIA WOULD BE DESIGNED FOR DEFENSIVE PURPOSES ONLY WITH AIM OF ENHANCING STABILITY IN THE HORN. WAIYAKI HEARD ME OUT AND RESPONDED CAREFULLY THAT KENYA UNDERSTOOD OUR POSITION AND COULD EASILY SEE THE BENEFIT OF REDUCING SOMALIA'S DEPENDENCE ON THE SOVIETS. HE ADDED THAT KENYA WAS WORRIED ABOUT THE NEW SOVIET ROLE IN

ETHIOPIA. WITH REGARD TO SPECIFIC QUESTION OF ARMS, HE NOTED THAT HE HAD DISCUSSED THIS ISSUE WITH BRITISH AND EGYPTIANS, AND HE UNDERSTOOD EGYPTIANS HAD DISCUSSED IT AT LENGTH WITH THE SAUDIS. THUS HE BELIEVED HE UNDERSTOOD THE RATIONALE BEHIND THE DECISION AND FELT KENYA COULD BO ALONG WITH IT. HOWEVER, KENYA WOULD NOT FEEL COMFORTABLE WITH SOMALIA SO LONG AS THE SOMALIS REFUSED TO RENOUNCE THEIR CLAIM TO KENYAN TERRITORY.

3. TURNING TO THE RECENT VISIT OF SOMALI VICE-PRESIDENT KULMIE, WAIYAKI SAID HE HAD BEEN "AMAZED" WHEN KULMIE TALKED TO THE PRESS BEFORE DEPARTURE FROM NAIROBI ABOUT BORDER PROBLEMS, IN EFFECT PLACING HIMSELF IN THE POSITION OF DEFENDING IRREDENTISM. WAIYAKI ALSO MENTIONED THAT VOICE OF KENYA ANALYSIS OF BORDER PROBLEM BROADCAST AFTER KULMIE VISIT HAD DRAWN PROTEST FROM SOMALI AMBASSADOR, A FURTHER SIGN OF FACT SOMALIS WERE NOT GIVING AN INCH ON THE KEY ISSUE BETWEEN THEM AND KENYA. WAIYAKI ANALYZED SOMALI MOTIVES IN MOVING AWAY FROM SOVIETS AS PURELY A REFLECTION OF THEIR UNHAPPINESS WITH SOVIET AID TO ETHIOPIA.

4. WAIYAKI EXPRESSED MISGIVINGS ABOUT ETHIOPIA BUT CONFIRMED THAT JOINT KENYAN-ETHIOPIAN COMMISSION MEETINGS WOULD BE HELD IN AUGUST. HE MENTIONED THAT ETHIOPIAN DEFECTOR TAYE RETA HAD TOLD HIM THAT MENGISTU WAS ON THE POINT OF DELIVERING AN ANTI-KENYA SPEECH WHEN THE KENYA-SOMALI BORDER INCIDENT
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ERUPTED IN LATE JUNE. AS A RESULT OF KENYA'S FIRM STANCE AGAINST SOMALIA, ETHIOPIA HAD SOFTENED ITS ATTITUDE TOWARD KENYA. NEVERTHELESS, WAIYAKI SAID MENGISTU HAD FRIGHTENED HIM BY THREATENING THAT IF SOMALI ATTACKED THE OGADEN, THE SOMALIS MAY LOSE WHAT TERRITORY THEY HAVE. KENYA WOULD BE DEEPLY CONCERNED AT A MAJOR WAR BETWEEN TWO OF ITS NEIGHBORS, AND IT WAS PONDERING HOW TO RESPOND TO AN ETHIOPIAN REQUEST FOR JET FUEL. THE KENYANS FEARED THAT FUEL WOULD ENABLE ETHIOPIANS TO BOMB SOMALIA. AS SAME TIME, WAIYAKI INDICATED THAT HE WAS UNDER NO ILLUSIONS ABOUT SOMALI SUBVERSION IN THE OGADEN; AN ADVISER TO PRESIDENT SIAD HAD ADMITTED AS MUCH TO HIM. HIS CONCLUSION WAS THAT BOTH ETHIOPIANS AND SOMALIS WERE FIERCE FIGHTERS AND IF SOMALIA PRESSED ITS CAMPAIGN TO SEIZE THE OGADEN, THERE WOULD BE REAL TROUBLE IN THE HORN.

5. COMMENT: WAIYAKI'S VIEW OF THE HORN OF AFRICA HAS BEEN MUCH INFLUENCED BY HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH TED ROWLANDS AND FOREIGN SECRETARY DAVID OWEN, AS WELL AS WITH THE EGYPTIANS, AS HE HIMSELF ACKNOWLEDGED TO ME. HE SEEMS GENUINELY EAGER FOR COUNTRIES FRIENDLY TO KENYA TO ACT TO STABLIZE THE SITUATION IN THE HORN.
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